MAIDENHEAD BOROUGH
and
COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1971

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Printed by W. H. Lee Ltd., Wokingham.

MAIDENHEAD BOROUGH & COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT

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Mrs. G. M. HOUNSLOW.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Maidnehead Borough and the Cookham Rural District Health Committees.

At the end of 1971 the Local Government Bill was put before Parliament. It provides for a 2 tier system of local government, i.e. counties defined in the Bill and districts to be defined by order on the advice of a Boundary Commission. The councils for the new authorities are to take up their full responsibilities on 1st April, 1974. Nearly all of the environmental health functions have been allocated to the new district councils. The 1st April, 1974 is also the date when the unified administration of the National Health Service under health authorities outside local government comes into effect. The local authority personal health services are all to be transferred to the new health authorities but not the personal social services which will remain a responsibility of local government after its re-organisation. Very little detail has so far been given about N.H.S. reorganisation A consultative document appeared in May 1971 but it confined itself to generalities, leaving all the detail to working parties. A White Paper is promised for the middle of 1972 and a management study team are currently (April 1972) testing out their ideas in the new Berkshire (Area 39). The difficulties in achieving effective working relationships between local authorities and the new health authorities certainly appear formidable. They must surely be aggravated if there are to be regional health authorities with no local government counterpart, and no health authority counterpart to the new local government districts.

The Hospital Board's welcome decision to build the new £250,000 Out-Patient department on the St. Marks Road site was announced in May, 1971. Building will start in 1973/74. There will be 6 out-patient consulting suites and an X-ray department. This is a definite triumph for local opinion which caused the Board to have second thoughts on the siting of this new out-patient department. Would it were the first step towards a complete new hospital on this site. Wexham Park Hospital originally planned as long ago as 1951 will be on the extreme eastern fringe of the new county authority. It is difficult of access for people in this area without their own transport. There is little doubt that had the planning decision been made later this hospital would have been sited further westward and nearer to Maidenhead.

We had what may well be the last of the 3-yearly visits of the Mass X-Ray Unit to this area in September. A total of 8,738 persons were X-Rayed, 3,754 of them at one of the public sessions held in Maidenhead, Cookham and Woodlands Park. A further 4,984 people were X-Rayed in organised groups at their

place of work. As usual a leaflet was delivered in advance to every household. The weather was good throughout September and as a result 542 more persons were X-Rayed than in the 1968 survey. Three active cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 4 cases of cancer of the lung were discovered.

Cholera has been extending westwards over the last few years. It appeared on the Black Sea coast of Russia in 1970 and soon afterwards in the Eastern Mediterranean, in Tunisia and in Guinea in West Africa. There was one imported case in the U.K. in that year and there were two cases in 1971. Localised outbreaks occurred in Lisbon and in Barcelona province and Valencia province in Spain. Our Public Health Departments had to undertake the surveillance of many persons who had returned from these areas. Fortunately they all remained well. Serious infectious disease in the U.K. is now largely a problem posed by the much greater mobility of our population. That is why our health departments have so much additional work in summer and autumn checking up on possible contacts of infectious disease abroad. Typhoid fever in particular is a constant threat to travellers going on holiday to areas of relatively high incidence of this disease such as the Mediterranean basin. They are advised to ask their own doctors to protect them with anti-typhoid vaccine before setting out.

We have still not eradicated measles from our community, the number of cases in the 2 districts being much the same as in the previous year. The aim is to have 90% of children between 1 and 15 who have not had measles vaccinated. With this object, a big drive is going to be made in primary schools in 1972 to protect susceptible children.

The Royal College of Physicians report on smoking and health appeared at the beginning of the year. It had considerable impact at the time. We do all in our power to support the National campaigns by means of posters, exhortation and advice to show how dangerous cigarette smoking is, particularly when the smoke is inhaled into the lungs. Not only are cigarettes the chief cause of lung cancer but they also cause chronic bronchitis, they increase the risk of coronary heart disease and delay the healing of stomach ulcers. Women who smoke in pregnancy are more likely to lose their babies. Unfortunately cigarette smoking is strongly addictive and a really conscious and sustained effort is needed to stop. The leaflet "How to Stop Smoking" is very helpful and can be obtained from the Health Department in the Town Hall.

On 29th June the new Medical Centre was opened in Cookham Road, Maidenhead, comprising 2 group practices, 2 chemist shops and dental surgeries. Although not a full health centre,

this is the next best thing and is a most impressive development. The County health visitors, home nurses and midwives are, of course, attached to all the general practices in our area. Our two health departments have built up over the years a very good relationship with the local general practitioners. I hope they see us not as interfering busy-bodies but as able to provide them with useful ancillary help. The co-operation of the local doctors is something we value most highly as little if anything can be achieved in public health work without it.

It gives me great pleasure to thank all those colleagues who by their efforts have helped to maintain high standards in what is inevitably a difficult period of transition.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

R. M. LASLETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,
Maidenhead.

MAIDENHEAD MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.

COMMENT ON STATISTICS.

The estimated mid-1971 population of 46,530 is for some reason lower by 400 than the 1970 figure. The trend since the War has, however, been steadily upwards and I think this is likely to continue for some years yet. The peak year for births was in 1964 when the corrected rate per 1,000 population was 19.3. A steady decline has occurred since then but this decline has slowed down in the past 3 years and now appears to have halted at a figure around 15.3. This is well above the corrected death rate of 10.2 per 1,000 population. These figures reflect national trends and explain why there is such emphasis nowadays on family planning policies.

It is satisfactory to note that the death rate of infants under 1 year (9 per 1,000 live births in 1971) is consistently below the national figure (17.6 per 1,000 live births in 1971). Of the 7 infants that died, 3 of them were under 1 week of age, the remaining 4 were over 1 month old, 1 death being accidental, 2 were due to congenital anomalies and 1 was due to bronchopneumonia.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

In addition to the 5 notified cases of Food Poisoning, 9 others were otherwise ascertained. All of them were sporadic cases except 2 which occurred in members of the same family. As so

often with sporadic cases the item of food responsible was not determined but 5 infections were certainly contracted abroad.

I referred to Measles in my introduction.

The number of persons on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1971 are shown below:

	Male		Female		Total	
Pulmonary ...	29	(34)	23	(23)	52	(57)
Non-Pulmonary	8	(5)	8	(8)	16	(13)

Figures in brackets are the corresponding ones for 31st December, 1970.

HOUSING

I am grateful to the Housing Manager for the figures given below.

130 applicants were rehoused in 1971 as against 87 the previous year. The waiting list for families increased marginally from 210 in January, 1971 to 224 in January, 1972. There was a waiting list of 166 applicants for elderly persons' accommodation in January, 1972, some 28 more than in January, 1971. This shows the pressure of demand for this type of housing as 60 elderly persons flats (Neve House and Maudesley House) were ready for occupation at the beginning of 1971. A further comment on this will be found in the Borough Engineer's report.

At a time of soaring house prices in this area, demand for Council housing inevitably exceeds the supply. I see many cases of acute housing need but it is only when there are very definite medical grounds that I am able to ask for and to obtain a priority allocation.

CHILD HEALTH

Child Health Clinics were held during the year at the Wilderness and at the Methodist Church Hall, Allenby Road. Attendances were as follows :

	1971	1970
Wilderness	2,322	2,813
Methodist Church Hall ...	4,038	3,868

Routine vaccination of infants against Smallpox was discontinued in August. Immunisation of children under 16 against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis and Measles is done by General Practitioners as well as at the Child Health Clinics and in schools.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)				5,007
Number of dwelling houses including flats according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1972				14,490
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1972				£2,897,992
Product of a Penny Rate				£28,800
Population (estimated mid-year)				46,530
Live Births:	**1971**	**1970**	**1969**	**1968**
Legitimate	733	738	721	744
Illegitimate	46	42	57	41
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:				
Actual	16.7	16.6	16.9	17.5
Corrected	15.4	15.3	15.5	16.1
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births ...	5.9	5.4	7.3	5.2
Still Births	11	12	7	12
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	13.9	15.2	8.9	15.1
Total Live and Still Births ...	790	792	785	797
Infant Deaths:				
Legitimate	6	8	5	7
Illegitimate	1	1	1	2
Infant Death Rates:				
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ...	9.0	11.5	7.7	24.2
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legtimate Live Births ...	8.2	10.8	6.9	22.8
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births ...	21.7	23.8	17.5	48.8
Neo—Natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births)	3.9	5.1	5.1	16.6
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births)	3.9	3.8	3.9	14.0
Perinatal Death Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	17.7	18.9	12.7	28.9
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births) ...	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deaths (all causes)	470	411	469	437
Death Rate per 1,000 population:				
Actual	10.1	8.8	10.2	9.7
Corrected	10.2	8.9	9.5	9.0

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

CAUSES

	CAUSES OF DEATH	TOTAL	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year
B.5	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	-	-
B.17	Syphilis and its Sequelae	1	-	-
B.18	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-	-
B.19(1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	-	-
B.19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	3	-	-
B.19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	7	-	-
B.19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	14	-	-
B.19(5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	-	-
B.19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	24	-	-
B.19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	14	-	-
B.19(8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	4	-	-
B.19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	9	-	-
B.19(10)	Leukaemia	3	-	-
B.19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	21	-	-
B.20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	3	-	-
B.21	Diabetes Mellitus	3	-	-
B.23	Anaemias	1	-	-
B.46(3)	Mental Disorders	4	-	-
B.46(4)	Multiple Sclerosis	1	-	-
B.46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	11	-	-
B.26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	4	-	-
B.27	Hypertensive Disease	3	-	-
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	121	-	-
B.29	Other forms of Heart Disease	34	-	-
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease	60	-	-
B.46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	16	-	-
B.32	Pneumonia	48	-	1
B.33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	12	-	-
B.33(2)	Asthma	1	-	-
B.46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	-	-
B.34	Peptic Ulcer	1	-	-
B.37	Cirrhosis of Liver	1	-	-
B.46(8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	-	-
B.39	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	-
B.46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	-	-
B.46(11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-	-
B.42	Congenital Anomalies	4	-	2
B.43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	2	2	-
B.44	Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	1	-
BE.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	10	-	-
BE.48	All Other Accidents	13	-	1
BE.49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	-	-
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	470	3	4

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

OF DEATH

AGE GROUPS								
1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4
-	-	-	-	-	3	1	6	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	2	8	10	4
-	-	-	-	-	2	6	1	5
-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	1
-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
1	-	-	1	2	-	6	5	6
-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
-	-	-	1	1	7	29	25	58
-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	23
-	-	-	-	-	5	5	14	36
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	41
-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	3	2	-	1	1	1	2	-
2	1	1	1	1	-	-	1	5
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
3	8	5	4	7	27	76	101	232

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Dysentery	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	4
Food Poisoning . .	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	1	–	–	–	–	5
Infective Jaundice .	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	3
Measles	6	3	17	7	9	57	16	1	1	–	–	–	117
Scarlet Fever . . .	2	1	–	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Whooping Cough . .	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	3	–	7
Tuberculosis:													
(a) Respiratory .	–	2	1	1	1	1	1	–	–	1	–	–	8
(b) Non-Respiratory	–	–	–	1	1	1	1	–	1	1	–	1	7
TOTALS	11	6	18	10	14	61	21	2	6	4	3	1	157

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

(A. D. M. Jones, C.S.I.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

For the Year 1971.

In the introduction to my Report for 1970 I referred to the fundamental changes in local government structure and functional responsibility implied in the White Paper on re-organisation and anticipated that a number of vital decisions would need to be taken during the year now under review (1971).

This forecast was fulfilled and it is extremely gratifying to record that the Local Government Bill, published in November, anticipates a pattern of environmental health administration in almost complete conformity with that suggested in my Report and in fundamental contrast to the government's earlier proposals.

The decision that District Councils will administer Building Regulations is also welcomed as it will preserve the close liaison already established to ensure that proposed developments conform to what are often the more exacting requirements of environmental health legislation.

Provisions in part VI of the Bill may also enable certain proposed County functions to be discharged by District Councils and Food and Drugs administration could be a case in point, especially when one considers that approximately half the population of the proposed new County area of Berkshire is already served in this respect by district authorities !

Boundaries of the new district areas will be defined in 1972 and positive attitudes will need to be applied to the evolution of an efficient managerial and departmental structure. The tendency seen in all large enterprises for management and its sophisticated techniques to grow more in importance than the services with which they are connected and the professional staffs which operate them should, it is suggested, be resisted as they are alien to many aspects of local government, more especially at district level.

Environmeal Health, possibly more than any other activity of local government, is directly concerned with individuals and should imply a total commitment to improving the quality of life **for** the individual. Problems arising from the intrusion into the environment by pollution of land, air and water, or associated with noise, sub-standard housing, animal and insect pests, stan-

dards of food hygiene, deficiencies in working conditions and so on, require a species of "administrative localism" if they are not only to be dealt with but seen to be dealt with, quickly and efficiently. The need so often is for someone who is available to spare a few minutes to listen, to talk and above all, to explain—simple things which are all the time in retreat, becoming more and more remote.

The principle of "administrative localism" in the field of environmental health which is implied in the new Bill will need at all times to be preserved and energetically applied.

The Report which follows maintains the altered format introduced last year and bare stastistics have again been supplemented by relevant narrative.

SECTION A General Administration
SECTION B Where We Live
SECTION C What We Drink
SECTION D What We Eat
SECTION E Where We Work
SECTION F Animal and Insect Pests
SECTION G Miscellaneous

Section A

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Animals, Keeping of	6
Accumulations	76
Building Operations	107
National Assistance Act	Nil
Complaints	598
Clean Air	48
Cinema	2
Cesspools	13
Consumer Protection	24
Dairies and Milk Distributors	98
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order	15
Drainage	465
Factories with Mechanical Power	68
Factories without Mechanical Power	3
Food Hygiene	560
Food Inspection	267
Farms	10

Food Premises :	
Bakers and Confectioners	48
Butchers	85
Canteens and Catering Establishments	38
Confectioners (Sweets)	24
Cooked Meats and Delicatessen	24
Department Stores	13
Fish Shops	36
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	27
Grocers and General Stores	121
Hotels and Licensed Premises	28
Ice Cream Premises	44
Restaurants and Cafes	42
Supermarkets	148
Other Food Premises	13
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises	10
Hawkers	22
Housing	699
Houses in Multiple Occupation	285
Improvement Grants	427
Insect Pests	595
Infectious Disease	213
Milk Delivery Vehicles	26
Meat Transport Vehicles	4
Moveable Dwellings	7
Meat Staining and Sterilising	Nil
Noise	120
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	707
Outworkers	34
Pig Sties and Poultry Runs	15
Pet Shops	7
Public Conveniences	29
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act (by Public Health Inspectors)	21
Qualification Certificates	184
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials	4
Refuse Tips	45
Rent Act	Nil
Riding Establishments	2
Scrap Metal Dealers	54
Stalls and other Vehicles	104
Swimming Pools	297
Shops Act (inc. Closing Hours and Sunday Trading)	216
Sewage Works	4
Schools	27
Streams and Ponds	5
Underground Rooms	6
Water Supplies	33
Other Visits and Re-visits	678

NOTICES.

Number of informal notices served during the year ...	18
Number of informal notices outstanding from 1970 ...	2
Number of informal notices complied with during the year	20
Number of informal notices outstanding at end of the year	Nil
Number of formal notices served during the year	8
Number of formal notices outstanding from 1970	Nil
Number of formal notices complied with during the year	7
Number of formal notices outstanding at end of the year	1

Section B.

WHERE WE LIVE

UNFIT HOUSING PROGRAMME.

Formal action was taken under the provisions of the Housing Act 1957 in respect of five privately owned houses considered to be unfit for human habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost. Closing Orders were made in respect of four houses and a demolition order in one case.

Reference was made last year to a growing tendency towards acquisition of suitably sited houses remaining in the Council's current programme for dealing with unfit houses and their subsequent repair and improvement for owner occupation. Spiralling housing costs have encouraged this process and it represents one of the few advantages of house price inflation.

A house unfit for human habitation when Housing Act criteria are applied, and with a controlled tenancy is a completely uneconomic unit when one thinks in terms of maintenance, repair or even grant aided improvement. The same sub-standard house with vacant possession now commands a price of several thousand pounds in the Maidenhead area.

There are several factors operating outside direct action by the Council under the Housing Acts, which nevertheless have the same effect of dealing with houses included in the programme. Amongst these are the decease of elderly tenants, the agreement of some elderly tenants to share accommodation with relatives and the re-housing of elderly tenants, at their request, by the Council in purpose-built accommodation for the elderly. Sub-standard accommodation released by any one of these several procedures is, unless needed for some alternative development, available for repair and improvement usually for owner occupation.

The official unfit housing programme is therefore part of an intricate pattern which needs to be seen as a whole if the greatest benefit is to be derived from the operation of all the factors involved and without prejudice to the individual concerned.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION.

All evidence points to the development of a relatively stable immigrant population. The temporary "staging post" occupation by immigrants in transit which used to make proper surveillance well nigh impossible is now of less significance. Family units continue to develop either by marriage or member immigration but cost inflation has already begun to effect the development of owner occupation and could well give rise in the future to further problems of multi-occupation. It would, of course, be wrong to assume that multiple occupation is no longer a matter of serious concern in the Borough or that the human problems involved are of less complexity.

During the year it was decided to carry out a "pilot survey" of certain areas in the Town known to have a higher than average immigrant population and where the greatest concentration of houses in multiple occupation is known to exist. The results of the survey are reproduced below and are quite encouraging, the more so as they confirm the trend noticed and reported upon last year and again referred to above.

PILOT SURVEY — HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

No. of houses inspected	No. of houses found to be in multiple occupation	% of immigrant houses in sample	% of houses in multiple occupation occupied by immigrants
319	19	10.6%	47.3%

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A total of 55 applications for Improvement Grants were approved during the year, 41 for Standard Grants and 14 for Discretionary Grants.

The accompanying table sets out the facilities provided with the aid of grant. There were six cases where grants of more than £30 were approved under Standard Grant procedure towards the provision of a bath in a bathroom and there was no application for improvement of a house to the "reduced standard".

Amenities provided during the year with Grant Aid:—

Wash Hand Basin	Bath in Bathroom	Hot Water Supplies	Indoor Water Closet	Sinks
21	19	29	17	Nil

Last year I reported that the number of grant applications had remained relatively constant over a period of some years and that 95% of applications had been for Standard Grants.

In accordance with Council policy considerable efforts have been made to encourage more applicants to take advantage of the grant scheme and to opt for comprehensive improvement rather than the provision of basic amenities. Results have been encouraging and the percentage of improvement grants approved has risen from the 5 year average of 5% to just under 28%. In terms of financial aid the increase was even more striking, the approved expenses in respect of discretionary grants during 1971 showing an 18-fold increase over the previous year.

Unfortunate and unavoidable delay has occurred over the proposed use of two Council owned properties as grant improved show-houses but these major difficulties should shortly be resolved thus allowing the scheme to proceed.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES.

The number of applications for Qualification Certificate received during the year (62) almost trebled compared with the preceding year as also did the number of such applications associated with Improvement Grants (12).

The procedure involved in the issue of Qualification Certificates entails a considerable amount of work both administratively and technically as each house has to be inspected in detail.

Indeed, the increased volume of work involved in dealing with both Improvement Grants and Qualification Certificates is quite considerable. The resources of the department are however, deployed to deal efficiently with this important aspect of environmental health.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are 80 caravans stationed on Council owned sites in the Borough and 2 on private sites. In addition a temporary site has been made available to accommodate 6 caravans belonging to registered members of the Showmans Guild as Winter quarters.

RENT ACT, 1957.

It is now 7 years since the last application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair. Varied and valid reasons could be put forward to explain this factor in the local housing situation but space will not permit and indeed the reasons are becoming less relevant each year.

Section C

WHAT WE DRINK.

GENERAL.

The supply of water provided by the Mid-Southern Water Company has continued to be satisfactory and adequate. The actual supply to the area is extremely hard, a quality which has recently been given prominence as a physiological beneficial characteristic.

The only independent water supply in the Borough is that serving a large research establishment and associated dwelling house. The system, including pumping and chlorination, is automatically controlled and the water is regularly and frequently checked and has given no cause for concern.

No fluoride is at present added to any water supply within the Borough. It is worth recording, however, that there is a naturally occurring fluoride content in the supply varying between 0.1 and 0.2 part per million.

WATER SAMPLES

11 samples of untreated water and 22 samples of treated water were taken at the pumping station and submitted for bacteriological examination independently of those taken by the Water Company. One sample from the mains supply was also submitted for bacteriological examination together with 3 samples for chemical analysis.

Samples for bacteriological examination are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory at Reading and those for chemical analysis by the Public Analyst.

Section D

WHAT WE EAT.

FOOD HYGIENE

The general safeguarding of food supplies continues to be a vital aspect of environmental health which demands a great deal of time and attention on the part of the Public Health Inspectors.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

Administratively 1971 was notable for the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970 which effected several changes in the requirements of the Regulations of 1960/62, all of them reflecting the acceptance of higher standards either by widening existing definitions or removing former "exclusions" from legislative requirements. Even so, legislation is always one step behind accepted standards of good practice—or it should be if we are doing our job of giving advice and assistance and pursuing a policy of general health education satisfactorily.

Standards of food hygiene tend to reflect combined attitudes of local authority, retailer and the consumer. But whilst the consumer can react to visible standards, the real hazard lies in the unseen parts of premises, especially the storage and preparation areas of catering establishments.

There are close on 200 premises in the Borough where catering activities of one sort or another are carried on and particular attention is being paid to such premises. One of the most disturbing features is the ease with which virtually anyone can set up in catering practice without training, instruction or experience. Many such people are found to be quite unsuited to the task, which can expose a section of the public to unnecessary risk. Surely the time has come for some form of registration to be introduced for people intending to open and run catering establishments so that their suitability can be tested beforehand?

Thought should also be given to the possibility of empowering the local authority to close catering premises which are unsatisfactory or where serious contraventions exist without having to rely on the existing time consuming procedure which can have the effect of continuing to expose the general public to risk over a period of many weeks.

The Borough Council are particularly concerned with the maintenance and improvements of standards in catering establishments and this policy will continue to be rigorously applied.

During the year proceedings were instituted against a large firm of caterers in respect of numerous contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, but the case has not yet come to Court.

REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES.

Nature and number of registered food premises:—

(a)	Manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice cream	Nil
(b)	For storage of ice cream intended for sale ...	1
(c)	For storage and sale of ice cream	108
(d)	For preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale	19

FOOD PREMISES.

The following table details the nature and type of business comprising the 359 food premises in the Borough which are subject to the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Bakers and Confectioners	11
Butchers	21
Canteens and Catering Establishments	33
Clubs	17
Confectioners, Sweet Shops	34
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shops	8
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	18
Grocers, Provision Merchants and General Stores (including delicatessen and small self-service stores)	62
Hostels and Nursing Homes	6
Hotels and Guest Houses	12
Hospitals and Nurses' Homes	6
Markets	6
Milk Depots	1
Public Houses	46
Restaurants and Cafes	24
Schools	32
School Cooking Centre	1
Supermarkets and Large Self-Service Stores	12
Wine Shops	7

MILK AND DAIRIES.

There has so far been no attempt on the part of dairymen to introduce a scheme of distribution using disposable plastic containers. Any such intention could give rise to a delicate situation and it is hoped that the fullest opportunity will be given for investigation and assessment of all the various considerations involved before any such scheme is introduced locally.

Number of Distributors of Milk	53
Number of Dealers (Prepacked Milk) Licences	55

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM SAMPLES:

Seven samples of ice cream were taken during the year with the following results :—

Provisional Grade 1	5 samples
Provisional Grade 2	1 sample
Provisional Grade 3	1 sample

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES :

Pasteurised Milk:

Total samples submitted	65
Methylene Blue Test:	
Passed	52
Failed	3
Void	10
Phosphatase Test:	
Passed	64
Failed	1

Sterilised Milk:

Total samples submitted	2
Turbidity Test:	
Passed	2
Failed	Nil

Three samples of Ultra Heat Treated milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

The reciprocal arrangements under which the County and Borough authorities notify each other of the nature and brand of sampled items continue to work well.

In the introduction to my Report I have suggested that this particular function could well be the subject of specal arrangement under the terms of the new Local Government Bill enabling it to continue as a district function.

The amount of work involved in carrying out these particular duties is not very great and they are easily and indeed logically absorbed in the general pattern of food administration. If this arrangement continued it would not only locate the service where most people have come to look for it, that is, at local level, but it would also meet one of the principal aims set out in the Bill—the effective and economic deployment of staff.

54 samples of food and drugs were procured and submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst and the following table sets out the detail in relation thereto.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

Article	Formal		Informal	
	Number of Samples	Number Adulterated or Unsatisfactory	Number of Samples	Number Adulterated or Unsatisfactory
Biscuits, buttercrisp ...	-	-	1	-
Brawn, Pork	-	-	1	-
Butter, rum flavour ...	-	-	1	-
Coconut	-	-	1	-
Crystallised Mimosa type	-	-	1	-
Cream	-	-	1	-
Cakes, mallow	-	-	1	-
Cakes, chocolate covered	-	-	1	-
Drink, blackcurrant ...	1	-	-	-
Drink, Instant Postum ...	-	-	1	-
Dessert topping	-	-	1	-
Fruit cocktail in syrup	-	-	1	-
Filling, cornish pasty ...	-	-	1	-
Gin	1	-	-	-
Hamburger with onion & gravy	-	-	1	-
Instant coffee-mate ...	-	-	1	-
Jam, apricot	-	-	1	-
Juice, grapefruit ...	-	-	1	-
Lambs tongue	-	-	1	-
Milks	15	-	-	-
Minifruits	-	-	1	-
Minced steak with onion	-	-	1	-
Minced beef	1	-	-	-
Pears in sorbitol syrup	-	-	1	-
Sausages	3	-	-	-
Sausages, cocktail ...	-	-	1	-
Spread, cheese	-	-	1	-
Spread, cheese with shrimp	-	-	1	-
Soups	-	-	4	-
Sweetcorn	-	-	1	-
Sauce, bolognese spaghetti	-	-	1	-
Sauce, sweet and sour ...	-	-	1	-
Tea	-	-	1	-
Whisky	1	-	-	-
Aspirin	1	-	-	-
	23	-	31	-

FOOD INSPECTION AND UNSOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were certified unfit for human consumption and destroyed:—

Beef	473 lbs.	Pork	69 lbs.
Turkey	115 lbs.	Rabbit	8 lbs.
Chicken	26 lbs.	Sausages ...	10 lbs.
Fish	50 lbs.	Vegetables ...	84 lbs.
Lambs Livers ...	70 lbs.	Ice Cream ...	9 Galls.
Lamb	10 lbs.	Various Food	621 Tins
Ox Kidney ...	14 lbs.	Various Foods	6749 Packets
Ox Tongue ...	2 lbs.	Various Foods	2 Bottles

COMPLAINTS RELATING TO FOOD.

The number of formal complaints received was 41, a decrease of 5 compared with last year.

Of these, 12 related to mouldy food, 11 were in connection with foreign bodies, 8 concerned insects in food and only one arose from a dirty milk bottle.

Every complaint is the subject of exhaustive investigation and all available evidence, including the invited observations of manufacturers where relevant, is assessed before deciding on the course of action which the complaint appears to justify.

During the year under review 28 complaints were dealt with informally and in 4 other cases warning letters were sent.

The remaining nine complaints were the subject of legal proceedings as follows:—

Glass in bottle ...	Fined £35 plus costs of £15.00
Maggots in sausages ...	Fined £10 plus costs of £10.00
Maggots in rashers ...	Fined £35 plus costs of £15.00
Mouldy sliced loaf ...	Fined £50 plus costs of £15.00
Mouldy sliced loaf ...	Fined £25 plus costs of £15.00
Mouldy pork pie ...	Fined £50 plus costs of £10.50
Metal in sausage ...	Fined £20 plus costs of £15.00
Insect in cake ...	Fined £20 plus costs of £13.50
Stain in sliced loaf ...	Fined £25 plus costs of £15.00

Section E

WHERE WE WORK

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The encouraging progress recorded last year with general inspections has continued.

It became apparent during the course of the year that many employers in the Borough had failed to register under the Act. This situation is not peculiar to Maidenhead.

The local position was researched with the aid of valuation lists and other sources of information. As suspected, this revealed a considerable discrepancy (15%) in the number of premises registered in relation to the estimated total. The Fire Officer is also naturally unaware of such omissions in registration as he relies on notifications received from the local authority for his information (except in cases where a Fire Certificate may be applied for direct).

Steps have been taken to subject these unregistered premises to an initial inspection and, at the same time, to secure registration. No formal action has been taken for default in registration (that is of premises recently coming into use) and this attitude has helped to preserve existing good-will and has encouraged co-operation generally. The increase of 50 in the number of premises registered during the year consists almost entirely of premises in this category. There are now 465 premises registered under the Act and a total of 4,018 persons employed therein whose working environment depends on the efficient administration of the Act and of the numerous regulations made thereunder.

The total of 4,018 is made up of 1,644 males and 2,374 females and the following table indicates the total number employed in various types of work place.

Offices	Retail Shops	Wholesale Departments and Warehouses	Catering Establishments Open to Public	Canteens
1,989	1,511	165	323	30

During the year 707 visits (including general inspections) were carried out under the provisions of the Act. All material contraventions discovered were confirmed in writing and in no case has it been necessary to resort to formal action to secure compliance with requirements.

A detailed statistical and narrative report has already been submitted to the Department of Employment as required under the Act.

Maidenhead Municipal Borough

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	241	68	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	22	107	—	—
Total	269	178	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Insp'tr. (4)	Referred By H.M. Insp'tr. (5)	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	9	9	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	9	9	—	2	—

PART VIII of the ACT.

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel	23	—	—	—	—	—
Curtain making	3	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers	1	—	—	—	—	—
Button carding	19	—	—	—	—	—
Total	46	—	—	—	—	—

Section F.

ANIMAL AND INSECT PESTS.

RODENT CONTROL.

A major part of the work of the departmental officer directly responsible for pest control relates to the destruction of rats and mice. The Technical Assistant, part of whose time is allocated to pest control duties, left for another appointment during the year but it was fortunately possible to replace him with an officer experienced in local government generally and more particularly in rodent and pest control.

The rodent control service is organised to give a free service to domestic premises, a chargeable service on a time and material basis to commercial premises and a service by annual agreement at a pre-determined charge to commercial undertakings on request.

The annual servicing agreements provide for routine testing and treatment at intervals of six weeks and incidental treatments on request during the intervening periods. In practice it is found to be a most effective way of ensuring regular surveillance where perhaps it is most needed as well as providing an estimated and useful source of revenue.

During the year under review the following visits and treatments have been carried out :

Premises visited on complaint	1,263
Premises visited on survey	3,160
Premises with rat infestation	190
Premises with mouse infestation	296

Annual agreements in respect of 77 premises were in force during the year.

The Sewage Works and Refuse Tip continue to be subject to regular inspection and remain virtually free of infestation.

Warfarin resistant mice have become a major problem. Infestations in food premises are particularly difficult to deal with as I will not authorise use of single dose poisons where there is any possible risk.

Trapping has been resorted to with success but this is time consuming and there are few people able to bait and set a trap efficiently.

No case has so far been experienced in the Borough involving Warfarin resistant rats but Coumatetralyl has been found to be more effective than Warfarin in a number of instances and, in the case of mice, this alternative has continued to result in a somewhat larger percentage success.

INSECT PESTS.

The year under review was memorable from the point of view of the abnormal number of wasp nests dealt with. High temperatures in early Spring permitted queens to establish themselves under the most favourable conditions. Complaints relating to insect pests were received and treatments carried out as follows:—

Wasps	Fleas	Bugs	Other Insects
217	9	7	2

PIGEONS.

Positive action has been continued to control and reduce the Town pigeon population. The established trapping site in the Town centre continues to operate successfully and the operation is carried out humanely and unobtrusively.

OTHER PESTS.

Local authorities have no statutory responsibility to control pests such as squirrels, rabbits, foxes, moles, bats, etc., in respect of which complaints arise, unless a public health risk exists. Occasionally such a risk can be established but in all cases advice and assistance is given within the competence of the Department.

The Ministry of Agriculture likewise has no statutory authority for controlling urban pests but a close liaison exists between the two authorities, notably through the periodic meetings of the South Bucks and East Berks Pest Control Committee. At the suggestion of the Ministry I have obtained a stock of advisory leaflets which deal with the control of a variety of urban pests and which are supplied by the Department on request where specific problems exist.

The grey squirrel is becoming a particularly serious pest in this area and causing an increasing amount of damage to the environment. The mole is also a depressing visitor to the cultivated garden and can burrow more than 200 ft. in 24 hours.

On the other hand, there is a tendency to class as "pests" many living things with which we come face to face after having "urbanised" their natural environment. The greatest care must always be exercised in preserving the delicate natural balance which exists at and beyond the fringe of urban areas.

Section G

MISCELLANEOUS.

SWIMMING POOLS.

School swimming pools and the Council's swimming pool are kept under regular surveillance.

155 samples from school swimming pools and 17 samples from the Council's pool were examined bacteriologically.

The arrangement with the County Education Authority whereby advice is given regarding purification and chlorination routines at school swimming pools continues to work satisfactorily and assistance with any specific or unusual problem is readily available at the request of the head teacher.

Some difficulty has been experienced with one privately owned swimming pool operated commercially for leisure and tuition and the Council's concern with the situation was formally conveyed to the owner. Thereafter an improvement took place but the situation needs to be carefully watched.

Again one is left wondering why no enforceable code for the regulation of this type of pool, possibly associated with some form of licensing by the local authority, is not available.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No burials were undertaken during the year under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957.

There is one person in the Borough operating plant and equipment for the boiling of waste foods under licence. One other person has commenced to operate plant and general improvements are being carried out at the holding prior to licensing. Routine inspections are made at irregular intervals.

RAG FLOCK.

There are now two premises registered under the Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1961. Both have been satisfactorily maintained and no contravention has been observed on inspection.

One formal sample was taken during the year.

NOISE.

120 visits and inspections were made during the year in connection with complaints of noise. These related chiefly to industrial noise, although the Council's progressive policy of re location of non-conforming users is continuing to prove effective in reducing noise source in residential areas.

Aircraft noise does not appear to be a major source of nuisance mainly on account of Maidenheads geographical location and the policy of outward routing over less populous areas which operates to the Borough's advantage.

There are a number of local authorities and other representative groups actively campaigning against aircraft noise. This is, of course, a commendable policy but the problem cannot be divorced from the factors which are essential to the efficient operation of Heathrow Airport.

The paramount consideration is one of **safety** and there would appear to be no practical short term solution which would not jeopardise this fundamental requirement. In the long term the introduction of quieter aircraft and the transfer of air traffic to an alternative airport will go a long way towards resolving this problem. It is **no** solution to re-route aircraft from one highly populated flight path to another—the logic in the short term lies in protecting where practicable on grounds of safety the more populous urban areas by routing over those which are more sparsely populated.

DOGS

Complaints continue to be received in connection with fouling of footways and open spaces by dogs.

Byelaws are in operation in the Borough which makes it an offence to allow dogs out unless on a lead or to allow a dog to

foul a footway. Elsewhere, the Courts have been asked to rule on the definition of "footway" which would now appear to exclude certain grass verges.

The simple fact is that many of our footways, including the verges, and our open spaces are contaminated by dogs to an extent which would lead to public outcry if such acts of pollution were perpetrated by human beings.

TORTOISES.

300,000 tortoises are imported into Britain each year of which, it has been suggested, no more than 3,000 survive a full year.

The Public Health Laboratory reports estimate that 85% of imported tortoises are infected with salmonella and occasionally cases occur in persons handling them, but mostly in young children. Salmonella enteritidis and other more common types occur although rarer types may be isolated.

Investigations into outbreaks of food poisoning as they occur invariably involve enquiries relating to pets as a possible source of infection.

STAFF.

The professional, technical and clerical staff have remained up to establishment apart from a short interval when a vacancy arose due to resignation.

All members of staff have continued to give their loyal and conscientious support to the work of the Department during the year and I would like to place on record my appreciation of the manner in which they have discharged their various duties.

A. D. M. JONES,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

BOROUGH ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

HOUSING.

A further 36 elderly persons' flats have been constructed and occupied at Harrow Lane and it is intended that three similar developments are undertaken during 1972/73. 8 Units will be provided as an extension to Maudsley House in Ray Street, 29 units will be constructed at Cox Green and a further 31 units on land available at Holmanleaze.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL WORKS.

The dry weather flow recorded for the year was 2.296 m.g.d. which again is in excess of the design capacity and exceeds that recorded for last year.

Regular effluent samples have been taken and difficulty is being experienced in maintaining the standard of effluent set by the Thames Conservancy, particularly during Winter periods. In this connection work is proceeding on the design of the extension and modernisation to the Works and it is hoped that work will commence during the early part of 1973 on Stage I of this scheme which will provide an effluent treatment plant to deal with a flow in the region of 3.5 m.g.d. to a much improved standard.

In the meantime, it is intended that a Laboratory and Office block shall be constructed during 1972 which will assist in the general administration and management of the existing Works and the Laboratory will provide very useful assistance towards the detailed design work for the enlarged Works.

The Works have suffered inconvenience on two occasions when power supplies have been interrupted and I am able to report that on both occasions no serious problems were encountered which would have resulted in pollution to adjacent water courses.

MAIN DRAINAGE.

Serious problems have arisen in three locations requiring emergency attention to existing sewers, due largely to the age and condition of the old sewerage system of the town. Approval in principal, has now been given by the Council to two large capital schemes which are designed to improve the situation relating to soil sewers in the town. The first of these will give relief to the Cox Green and Shoppenhangers area and the second to the Boyn Valley and St. Mark's areas. On completion of both schemes it will be possible to carry out some alterations to the sewers in the Pinkneys area which, together with some other modifications, will provide capacity in the sewerage system of that area to cater for the two large developments which are shortly to commence in the Northern sector of the town.

Good progress has been made on the connection of further properties, which have previously been on cesspool or septic tank drainage, to the main sewerage system of the town, some of these in conjunction with Private Street Works. During the last year a regular cycle of cesspool emptyings was brought into operation and this new system has operated very satisfactorily.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

The refuse collection service continued to operate very satisfactorily throughout the year and even during the holiday periods all properties were given a regular weekly service.

Disposal is still carried out by controlled tipping and shortly the area of tipping will transfer to a point south of the now discontinued Green Lane which will enable a cosiderable area of land to be transferred to the Parks Department for recreational purposes.

The new Revopak collection vehicle has proved to be of considerable assistance in maintaining regular collections and it is anticipated that a further vehicle to this design and specification will be available during May, 1972.

SWIMMING POOL

The number of persons attending the Open Air Swimming Pool was slightly less than that recorded for the previous year, but again has been very encouraging. Good progress has been made on the design work of the new Indoor Recreational Centre and Swimming Pool and it is hoped a start can be made on construction during the Autumn of 1972.

H. MILLS

Borough Engineer and Surveyor.

COOKHAM RURAL DISTRICT.

COMMENT ON STATISTICS.

The estimated mid-1971 population showed an increase of 150 over the previous year. There was an excess of 129 births over deaths. The locally adjusted birth rate of 14.1 per 1,000 population was less than the rate for England and Wales which was 16.0. Similarly the locally adjusted death rate of 9.7 per 1,000 population was lower than that for England and Wales, which was 11.6.

It is a great pleasure to record that there were no deaths of infants under 1 year in the rural district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In addition to the 3 notifications of food poisoning, 5 more were ascertained and in 2 of these the infection had been acquired abroad.

The 3 notified cases formed part of a larger outbreak involving 13 people in all. This outbreak which occurred in warm humid weather was attributed to pork. Although this had been well cooked it was left at room temperature for some 24 hours before it was eaten cold.

The numbers on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December 1971 are given below with the corresponding figures in brackets for 1970.

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1 (6)	9 (12)	10 (18)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2 (2)	0 (0)	2 (2)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I should very much like to see all the properties in the rural district on a mains water supply. The legal and financial difficulties in the way of achieving this are, however, formidable. Every effort is made both by examinations on the spot and by regular sampling to ensure the purity of well waters. Eternal vigilance is necessary especially with a shallow well water liable as it is to surface contamination particularly after heavy rain.

It is a pleasure to read in the Engineer and Surveyor's report, of the programmes now under way for the reconstruction and enlargement of the White Waltham Sewage Disposal Works and for the sewering of more villages.

Cesspools, either because they leak or because they overflow, are constantly giving rise to troubles which these schemes, when completed, will lessen very considerably. I look forward to the day when the cesspool emptier is no more than a quaint survival and an object of interest in the museum.

HOUSING.

The Housing Manager has kindly given me the following figures.

There were 206 applicants on the general waiting list and 75 on the list for elderly persons accommodation at the end of 1971. 92 applicants were rehoused during the year as against 64 the previous year.

The Engineer and Surveyor gives details in his report of the houses and flats completed in 1971. Demand for Council housing is very high and the comments I made in the Maidenhead section of this report are equally applicable to the Rural District.

CHILD HEALTH.

As regards Immunisation of children under 16, the same remarks apply as given in the Maidenhead section.

Cookham Rural District.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	24,920
Number of dwelling houses including flats according to Rate Book at 31st March, 1972	6,369
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1972	£1,048,477
Product of a Penny Rate	£10,450
Population (estimated mid-year)	19,130

	1971	1970	1969	1968
Live Births:				
Legitimate	272	237	292	272
Illegitimate	18	19	16	25
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population:				
Actual	15.2	13.5	16.4	15.9
Corrected	14.1	12.6	15.3	14.8
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births ...	6.2	7.4	5.2	8.4
Still Births	3	1	2	2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	10.2	3.9	6.5	6.7
Total Live and Still Births ...	293	257	310	299
Infant Deaths:				
Legitimate	0	3	5	6
Illegitimate	0	0	1	0
Infant Death Rates:				
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births ...	0.0	11.7	19.5	20.2
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate Live Births ...	0.0	12.7	17.1	22.1
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births ...	0.0	0.0	62.5	0.0
Neo Natal Death Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Live Births)	0.0	3.9	19.5	13.5
Early Neo-Natal Death Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Live Births) ...	0.0	3.9	19.5	10.1
Perinatal Death Rate (Still Births and Deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	10.2	7.8	25.8	16.7
Maternal Deaths	0	0	0	0
Maternal Death Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births) ...	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Deaths (all causes)	162	145	174	169
Death Rate per 1,000 population:				
Actual	8.5	7.6	9.3	9.0
Corrected	9.8	8.7	10.7	10.4

MONTHLY NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
Dysentery	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	5
Infective Jaundice	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3
Measles	6	2	3	4	5	8	2	—	1	—	—	—	31
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tuberculosis:													
(a) Respiratory	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
(b) Non-Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	9	2	4	4	5	8	6	—	2	2	1	1	44

Cookham Rural District.

CAUSES

	CAUSES OF DEATH	TOTAL	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 1 year
B.19(2)	Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	2	-	-
B.19(3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	5	-	-
B.19(4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	6	-	-
B.19(6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	13	-	-
B.19(7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	6	-	-
B.19(9)	Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	-
B.19(10)	Leukaemia	1	-	-
B.19(11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	11	-	-
B.20	Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	2	-	-
B.46(3)	Mental Disorders	1	-	-
B.46(5)	Other Diseases of Nervous System	2	-	-
B.26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	-	-
B.27	Hypertensive Disease	2	-	-
B.28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	46	-	-
B.29	Other forms of Heart Disease	3	-	-
B.30	Cerebrovascular Disease	20	-	-
B.46(6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	5	-	-
B.31	Influenza	1	-	-
B.32	Pneumonia	14	-	-
B.33(1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	5	-	-
B.46(7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	-	-
B.36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	-	-
B.46(9)	Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	2	-	-
B.45	Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	2	-	-
BE.47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	-
BE.48	All Other Accidents	3	-	-
BE.49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	1	-	-
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES	162	-	-

Cookham Rural District.

OF DEATH

AGE GROUPS								
1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 and over
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	2
-	-	-	-	-	1	8	2	2
-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5
-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	1	3	6	16	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	16
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
-	-	1	1	5	8	31	45	71

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending 31st December, 1971.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The following list shows the seven Parishes in the Rural District with the properties in each which are on either a mains or a well water supply.

Parish	Total Houses	On Main Supply	On Well Supply
Bisham	423	414	9
Bray	1,902	1,899	3
Cookham	2,237	2,193	44
Hurley	708	673	35
Shottesbrooke	45	45	–
Waltham St. Lawrence ...	561	560	1
White Waltham	733	733	–

63 samples of well water were obtained during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results are summarised thus :

Samples taken	...	63
Satisfactory	...	56
Unsatisfactory	...	7

Two of the properties showing an unsatisfactory report on their well water have now been put on mains supply. Of the others, two have now had chlorinating plants installed and the remainder needed their storage facilities cleansed. Subsequent samples in all cases have been satisfactory.

Eight samples of swimming bath water from Schools in the area were also obtained for bacteriological examination. 3 of these were reported on as unsatisfactory. The pools were emptied, cleansed and the chlorinating plants checked.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS

Infectious diseases	80
Drainage	709
Caravans and Sites	88
Refuse collection	322
Cesspool emptying	216
Clean Air Act	45
Food Premises generally	158
Noise Abatement Act	50
Civic Amenities Act	211

Cookham Rural District.

MILK SAMPLES

No samples were taken this year for the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase test. All the samples taken the previous year were satisfactory.

Four samples of raw milk were obtained and submitted for the Brucella Ring Test examination and all four samples were reported on as negative to this test.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following list shows the foodstuffs which were condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption and disposed of:—

1,076	Bottles of assorted minerals contaminated after being submerged in flood water.
15lb. 12ozs.	Smoked Ham.
One 15lb.	Turkey.

The contents of 3 refrigerators were also condemned and this included quantities of the following :

2 Ducks
48 Freeze drinks,
Packets of : Trifle, Mousse, Sponge Cakes, Grapefruit and Orange Juice, Pease, Onions, Beans, Mixed Veg., Sprouts, Spinach, Chips, Beefburgers, Rissoles, Roast Beef, Corn-on-the-Cob, Fish Fingers, Fish Cakes, Haddock, Cod, Plaice, Ice Cream.

DRY SCAVENGING

The Council's fleet of four compression type refuse collection vehicles have been in regular use throughout the year and a first class refuse collection service has been maintained. One of our old machines unfortunately caught fire towards the end of the year and it was replaced with one of a larger carrying capacity.

Litter and abandoned vehicles were again a problem during the year, but all the complaints were dealt with and the old vehicles moved for disposal. No serious dumping takes place at all in the area and I think it can be said to be reasonably clear of any undue nuisance from litter.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

All the refuse collected, both household and trade, is disposed of by controlled tipping at one central tip. A new Crawler Tractor was purchased during the year and the tip has been maintained in a first class condition. Although very near to some housing estates, no complaints have been received at all which relate to the tip.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

A further 1,500 gallon cesspool emptier was purchased during the year and there are now 7 vehicles of this size in the Fleet. A very reasonable service has been maintained although complaints are bound to occur as conditions vary so much from parish to parish and long periods of wet weather can make emptying extremely difficult to cope with.

During the year Work Study has been carried out to both the Wet and Dry Scavenging Services with the idea, in the cesspool service, of introducing a planned emptying scheme. It was very interesting to note that the present method of working in both Services gave an average of 90% effort.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Again I am pleased to report that no serious outbreak of infectious disease has occurred during the year. A few cases, mainly of Sonnei Dysentery, account for the 90 inspections made. Most of the suspected cases notified turned out to be negative.

FOOD PREMISES

A total of 158 visits and inspections were made to the Shops, Hotels, Cafes, etc. in the area and a good standard of hygiene is being observed. The importance of this is emphasised on each visit, particularly to the employees. Improvements are regularly being carried out to these premises as it is one of the subjects that I rank as amongst the most important undertaken by the Department.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A total of 140 visits were made during the year.

CARAVAN SITES.

There are a total of 896 caravans in the area, most of them are holiday caravans situated near the River Thames. The main sites have all obtained Site Licences and the conditions are well maintained.

One of the main reasons for work under this heading is trying to check and keep up with the 40 or so odd vans in the area. A considerable amount of time is taken up with the issuing of Site Licences to these individual caravans.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 54 licensed premises in the area where petroleum spirit is stored and 51 inspections of these premises were carried out during the year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

A total of 66 Discretionary Grant applications and 9 Standard Grant applications were received during the year.

Work under the Housing Act 1969 necessitated some 295 visits for either inspection or interview purposes. I again emphasise the rewarding nature of this work.

Finally, I would like to thank the Members of my Staff for their help and co-operation during the year.

E. G. POLLARD

Senior Public Health Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION OF FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	59	—	—
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total	63	63	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp'tr.	Referred By H.M. Insp'tr.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	2	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	3	—	3	—

PART VIII of the ACT.

OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134).

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-Workers in Aug. List required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for Failure to supply Lists	No. of Instances of work in Unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel	3	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and Upholstery	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	—	—	—	—

REPORT OF THE ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

COUNCIL HOUSING.

The following traditional houses and flats were completed in 1971 :

Stage 2, Stroud Estate, Holyport.

4 - 1 bedroom flats for elderly persons.
2 - 1 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
6 - 2 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,

Ronald Young House—Block of 25 flats and flatlets for elderly people, including warden's unit, consisting of—

20 - 1 person flatlets
4 - 1 bedroom flats
1 - 2 bedroom Warden's accommodation

Communal reading room, T.V. lounge, laundry room, etc., and a guest bedroom.

Stage 3, Stroud Estate, Holyport.

27 - 3 bedroom, 5 person houses
7 - 3 bedroom, 4 person houses
8 - 1 bedroom flats for elderly persons.

Heywood Park, Woodlands Park.

A contract amounting to approximately £100,000.00 for first phase civil engineering works was let during 1971. These works on the Council's new housing estate consist of roads and both foul and surface water sewers. The estimated total cost of the whole of civil engineering works (including first stage amounts to approximately £180,000.00.

The housing development, amounting to approximately £1,300,000.00, consists of 273 houses and flats, including a fourth sheltered persons unit, and is made up as follows :

43 - 4 person houses
107 - 5 person houses
84 - flats for elderly persons
10 - 4 person flats.

Block of 29 flats and flatlets for elderly persons, including warden's unit, consisting of:—

24 - 1 person Bed./Sit.
4 - 2 person flats
1 - 4 person flat as warden's accommodation.

These houses, all of which have been designed by my department, are traditional houses and are to be let in contracts of about 50 units. The small contract is being let deliberately in order to keep the contract periods as short as possible (approximately nine months), to avoid high risk payments being included in the contract price due to the contract being "fixed price" and the high acceleration of prices and labour rates which has been experienced in the last twelve months.

Sleekstone Cottages.

The cottages were modernised by the provision of gas fired backboiler central heating system, electrical-rewiring and the provision of full bathroom and kitchen facilities.

PRIVATE HOUSING.

24 private dwellings were completed in 1971.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Hurley Sewage Disposal Works

This works, which has a d.w.f. of 186,000 g.p.d., has now been completed.

Bisham.

The scheme for the sewering of the villages of Bisham and Temple, together with the rising main to Hurley Sewage Disposal Works, is now under construction at a contract figure of £274,070.00. This scheme is progressing satisfactorily although very bad conditions are being experienced and certain modifications are being made in order to accommodate a proposed hotel and flat development at Temple Mills.

Oakley Green.

The contract amounting to £243,100.00 has been let for the sewering of Oakley Green Village and the housing estate of 344 houses being constructed at Broom Farm by the Ministry of Defence as married quarters for the Guards Regiment at Windsor. Sewerage will be pumped for treatment to Slough Corporation's sewage disposal works at Cippenham through a 10in. plastic rising main which is being laid by the Yates Badger process. The remainder of the scheme consists of 6in., 9in. and 12in. asbestos cement pipes together with a 30in. stormwater sewer.

Cookham Rural District.

White Waltham Main Drainage Scheme.

This scheme has now received Ministry approval and the contract for the reconstruction and enlargement of the Sewage Disposal Works at White Waltham should be let in July/August 1972. These works has been designed to take a d.w.f. of 400,000 g.p.d. and is to include inlet works, dortman type sedimentation and humus tanks together with rectangular percolating filters. The whole flow will be pumped at works and sludge is to be treated by chemical mixing and pressing in an Edwards & Jones 48in. 80 plate sludge drying press. Facilities have been provided for dealing with the contents of the cesspool emptying fleet.

Stage 1 of the White Waltham main drainage scheme, which includes the sewering of part of Woodlands Park and the villages of White Waltham, Waltham St. Lawrence and Shurlock Row, should be put out for contract during October, 1972.

The scheme includes eight pumping stations.

Bray Main Drainage.

A small scheme to improve this existing drainage area by the construction of a new 10in. rising main from No. 1 Pumping Station, Bray, to Maidenhead Borough's sewage disposal works, together with new pumping equipment, is at present being designed by my department and should be completed for contract during 1972.

P. A. MAJOR,
Engineer and Surveyor.